

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	Conditions in the Nica Area	DATE DISTR.	10 August 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

- Source remembers only one farm, Pexiss. This farm was located not far from the church of Nica, to the south of the Barta River. After the communist land reform after the capitulation, this farm was divided in two parts. After the collectivization, the farm was included in a kolkhoz. The kolkhozy in the parasts of Nica (N56-21, E21-05) were established soon after the deportations. There were three kolkhozy. One of them was called "The Golden Sun". Not all farmers were joined in kolkhozy at the time source left Nica (N56-21, E21-05). There were kulaki, who were not admitted to kolkhozy. All kolkhoz chiefs were Latvians. There was no machine-tractor station at Nica and no tractors. There was no sovkhos in the environs. In Jurmalciems there was a fishermen's kolkhoz, but source never visited this village. Every farmer had 1 hectare of his own, but he had to deliver to the State a certain amount of the produce. He was allowed to keep only one cow, but the number of pigs and hens was not restricted. There was only one shop at Nica, and it belonged to the State. The post office was located opposite the church. The church was intact, and services took place. The minister was a man of 40. There was also a windmill at Nica, but people went to Rucava to grind their corn. There was also a physician at Nica, a Latvian. There was in the parish one militiaman, at whose office the inhabitants had to be registered. He had lived in the poorhouse, but after the deportations in 1949 he received the apartment of a deported family, not far from the church. More dangerous was the parish Party Organizer. He was a Latvian Jew, and during the war lived in the USSR; he was a Communist. He lived in the pagastmaija, or local administrative seat. People said it was he who made the list of persons to be deported. The nearest railroad station was Barta (N56-21, E21-18), on the Lepaya-Rucava narrow-gauge railroad.
- In the spring of 1949 the Soviets deported from Nica Pagasts approximately 100 persons, including children. This deportation completely depopulated some villages in the environs. Source remembers that three families were deported from Nica parish, but family members were not separated. The deportations were executed by Soviet Chekists; no Latvian militiaman took part. People believed the list of persons to be deported was made by the Organizer of the Communist Party in Nica, a Latvian Jew, who was a Communist. He did not take active part. The deportations lasted two days. The people were driven in heavy trucks to Lepaya.

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3. Lumbering was going on very intensively. There were special lumber kolkhozy. In these industries worked those who had only $\frac{1}{2}$ hectare of land and were living nearby. Wolves appeared at Nica in 1948; they had been in Lithuania in 1947. Wolves tore domestic animals to pieces, but never attacked human beings.
4. There were many partisans in Lithuania, also in the district of Klaipeda. Source met them in the fall of 1947 near Bajuren, where partisans were very numerous. They recommended that source go first to Lepaya, and then to flee from there to Sweden. In Latvia the partisans were not as numerous as in Lithuania. In the woods about Nica they were not seen, but southwards in the woods of Rucava they were. After the deportations in spring 1949 and the combing of the woods, the Latvian partisans mostly went to Lithuania, where the living conditions were much better; there were more partisans, and the forests were larger. Source had never been a partisan in Latvia, but believes they had a very difficult time of it, due to their small numbers. The most difficult conditions were after the collectivization.
5. All persons who returned from Germany after capitulation or had worked with the Germans were obliged to leave the seacoast south of Lepaya. Source does not know where these persons were transferred, but she believes it was somewhat away from the shore. All other inhabitants could remain. From villages near the seacoast all Latvians who were repatriated from Germany had to leave, e.g., from Bernati, and Jurmalciems, but not from Nica. Rumors were spread in 1949 that all people living in the 4 km strip along the shore would have to leave their homes, but as long as source lived in Nica this plan was not realized. Source was not allowed to have her permanent residence in Lepaya. This was explained to her in the spring of 1949 in Lepaya by the chief of the passport section of the militia. The militia building on Toma Street, on the corner, was a four-story, red-brick building, called "The Blue Miracle". The chief recommended that she go to Riga in order to receive the identification document and to clear up her situation. The militia section for foreigners in Riga issued to source a certificate. This certificate stated that source was stateless and was allowed to live in Latvia any place excepting the four large cities, Riga, Lepaya, Daugavpils, and Yelgava, and on the seacoast. In this certificate there was mentioned a certain distance in kilometers from the sea, although source does not recall it exactly. Source says the same restrictions applied to all Latvians who had returned from Germany.
6. Between Nica and Lepaya, just past Bernati, shortly before the old cemetery on Klaipedas iela there was a checkpoint with a barrier. Two Soviet soldiers stopped all vehicles and checked travel documents, and sometimes even the identification cards of the passengers. Going by truck, every passenger had to pay directly to these two soldiers a certain amount of money: those who went to Lepaya from Bernati had to pay 5 rubles; those who came from Nica, 10 rubles. The road from Bernati to Lepaya was asphalt. Generally the roads were in very bad condition, and nobody repaired them. Source cannot comment on the other highway from Nica to Lepaya, along the east shore of Lake Lepaya.

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